



West Valley City **POLICE • FIRE**



Offices of Chief Lee W. Russo and John Evans
3575 South Market Street, West Valley City, Utah, 84119

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 5, 2017

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At approximately 12:30am on June 5 2017, the West Valley City Fire Department responded to a house fire at 6946 West Bonnie Arlene. Fire crews arrived to find heavy flames pouring from a bedroom window on the upper floor. Fire crews were initially told that one or two people were possibly trapped inside the house. Inside an upper floor bedroom, crews discovered the body of a deceased woman. The victim has been identified as 64 year old Kathie Thomas. Crews also rescued a man who was sleeping in the basement of the home. He was not injured. Four other people were inside the home at the time of the fire. Three of them, including two adults and a child, escaped the house and were not injured. The other person who was inside the house at the time of the fire is the suspect in the case. She has been identified as Loralie Thomas (3/25/71).

A joint investigation conducted by West Valley City Police and West Valley City Fire has revealed that Loralie Thomas set a fire inside the home with the intention of killing her mother. Thomas has been booked into the Salt Lake County Jail on charges of Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Arson and four counts of Attempted Aggravated Murder.

Damage to the home is estimated at \$150,000.

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